

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Pat. No. 2001-311470 in view of Sasaki.

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Pickard for the consideration given applicant's attorney at the interview of September 11, 2008. At the interview, proposed amended claims were discussed in view of the prior art. As a result of the interview, the Examiner was of the opinion that the proposed amendments raised new issues that would require further consideration. Accordingly, an RCE has been filed.

By the amendments to the claims, the specific advantage of prevention of outgas from the gasket sealing between a hard disk body having a hard disk drive and a metal top cover has been specifically set forth. Further, a positioning of a center of a tip of the main bead portion contacting a center of a width of a contact surface of the hard disk box body has been claimed. This, as discussed in the specification, avoids the squeezing out from the contact surface of the hard disk box body of the gasket while sealing between the hard disk box body and the metal top cover. Also, outgassing of the injection molded gasket is avoided and damage to the hard disk drive is prevented. Further, the gasket is made of a heat resistant olefin-series elastomer compound that is able to withstand the heat of greater than

100°C while simultaneously preventing a deleterious outgassing from adversely affecting a hard disk drive.

The references cited with respect to the previously pending claims fail to include the specific outgassing property of less than 50 µg/g to prevent error operation of a hard disk drive from an injection molded gasket applied to a metal top cover having a surface roughness of 0.1 to 5 micrometers and made of a heat resistant material withstanding heat of greater than 100°C while simultaneously having the advantageous low outgassing property. Further, by defining the specific slopes of the portions of the gasket, the gasket is prevented from being squeezed out from a contact surface due to the positioning of a center of a tip of the main bead portion contacting a center of a width of a contact surface of the hard disk box body. These features fail to be appreciated by the prior art and are discussed in the specification as providing an advantageous sealed hard disk unit.

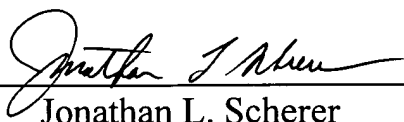
Accordingly, the claims, as amended, are distinguished over the prior rejection of the claims.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, she is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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